

PENDING CLAIMS AS OF JUNE 13, 2003
U.S. Serial No. 10/017,498
Docket No.: 3652/0K015-US0

1. A method for dynamic renewability of content comprising the following steps:
 - (a) creating a license file having one or more parameters for a content item requested by a user;
 - (b) transmitting the requested content item from a provider system to the user;
 - (c) transparently transmitting the license file to the user;
 - (d) subsequent to steps (a), (b), and (c), comparing the one or more parameters contained in the license file to corresponding one or more parameters maintained by the provider system to determine whether or not the user is allowed access to the content; and
 - (e) transparently renewing the parameters in the license file if the parameters in the license file differ from the corresponding parameters maintained by the provider system to allow continued access to the content by the user in accordance with the license file parameters maintained by the provider system.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the license file parameters include one or more of the following parameters: date, user's country of origin, monetary value on account, user's technical information, type of content to be downloaded, number of times the content has been downloaded and grace periods.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising a step wherein the license file is created by a license server.
4. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step

of storing the provider system license file parameters using a subscription management system.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of storing one or more user license file parameters in a registry.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of storing the content item on a content server which is part of the provider system.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of recording the user downloaded content in a user's local database.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein individual license files are created for individual content items.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein one license file is created for a plurality of content items, said license file including one or more parameters for each content item.

10. An apparatus for providing dynamic renewability for content provided from a content provider to a user, comprising:

a content provider system, said content provider system including:

a content server, operable to store and retrieve content items;

a communication server, operable to communicate with said user, said communication server operable to receive content items from said content server and to communicate said content items to said user;

a license server, operable to monitor the amount and type of content to be communicated to said user, said license server having stored thereon one or more license files,

each said license file containing one or more parameters relating to one of said content items;
and

a user system, said user system including:

a communication application, operable to communicate with said communication server in order to receive content items and license files;

a license storage, operable to store said one or more license files on said user system; and

a content storage, operable to store content items requested by said user and received from said content provider system.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein said provider system further comprises a subscription management service, operable to monitor and maintain said one or more license file parameters.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein said user system further comprises a client application for receiving user input and providing said user input to said communication application, said license storage and said content storage.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein said one or more license file parameters comprise one or more of the following parameters: date, user's country of origin, monetary value on account, user's technical information, type of content to be downloaded, number of times the content has been downloaded and grace periods.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein said license server is operable to create said license file.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein said communication server is operable to receive said license file from said license file server and to transmit said license file with said content to said user system.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein said subscription management service is operable to compare license file parameters on the content provider system and the license file parameters on the user system.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the provider system further comprises a means to transparently update said license file by communicating an updated said license file from the provider system to said user system.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the provider system further comprises a means to transparently update said license file parameter by communicating an updated said license file parameter from the provider system to said user system.

19. A computer-readable medium encoded with processing instructions for performing a method for facilitating a dynamic renewability of content between a provider system and a user system, comprising the following steps:

- (a) creating a license file having one or more parameters for a content item requested by a user;
- (b) transmitting the requested content item from a provider system to the user;
- (c) transparently transmitting the license file to the user;
- (d) subsequent to steps (a), (b), and (c), comparing the one or more parameters contained in the license file to corresponding one or more parameters maintained by the provider system to determine whether or not the user is allowed access to the content; and

(e) transparently renewing the parameters in the license file if the parameters in the license file differ from the corresponding parameters maintained by the provider system to allow continued access to the content by the user in accordance with the license file parameters maintained by the provider system.

20. An apparatus for facilitating a dynamic renewability of content between a provider system and a user system, the apparatus comprising:

a processor; and

a memory storing processing instructions for controlling the processor, the processor operative with the processing instructions to:

(a) create a license file having one or more parameters for a content item requested by a user;

(b) transmit the requested content item from a provider system to the user;

(c) transparently transmit the license file to the user;

(d) subsequent to steps (a), (b), and (c), compare the one or more parameters contained in the license file to the corresponding one or more parameters maintained by the provider system to determine whether or not the user is allowed access to the content; and

(e) transparently renew the parameters in the license file if the parameters in the license file differ from the corresponding parameters maintained by the provider system to allow continued access to the content by the user in accordance with the license file parameters maintained by the provider system.

21. (New) The system of claim 10, wherein said content provider system further comprises a means to transparently transmit said license files to said user.